

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 29, 31, 37, and 39, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 27, 28, 32, 35, 40, 43, and 44 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 27, 28, 32, 35, 40, 43, and 44, showing the changes being made thereto, is attached. Please note that all claims currently pending in this application are being reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

27. (Amended) A printing control apparatus for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer in response to an instruction acquiring a device information; and

selection means for selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays;

first setting means for setting a binding location; and

limitation means for limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set by said first setting means.

28. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising second setting means for setting a size of a printing paper,

wherein said limitation means limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the printing paper set by said second setting means and the feed tray selected by said selection means.

29. CANCELLED

30. (Unamended) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising display means for displaying of a staplable position and an unstaplable position in an identifiable screen.

31. CANCELLED

32. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said printing control apparatus is prepared for in a host computer which communicates with a printer by an interactive interface, wherein,

said acquisition means acquires the paper information, which includes setting direction and size of the printing paper for each paper feed tray prepared for in said printer, from said printer by said interactive interface according to the designation of a user, and

said limitation means associates paper information acquired by said acquisition means with the paper information of the paper feed tray selected by the said selection means

according to the instruction of the user from among the list of a plurality of paper feed trays displayed in the display unit and limits the staplable position on the basis of the associated paper information.

33. (Unamended) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising display control means for displaying the paper information of a plurality of paper feed trays acquired by said acquisition means,

wherein each paper information includes setting direction and size of the paper.

34. (Unamended) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising: device list generation means for generating device list information; and device selection means for selecting the device corresponding to instruction of the user from among lists based on the generated device list information,

wherein said acquisition means is for acquiring paper information for each paper feed tray of the device selected by said selection means.

35. (Amended) A printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality of staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising the steps of:

acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer in response to an instruction acquiring a device information;

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays;
setting a binding location; and
limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information
related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set.

36. (Unamended) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a
step of setting a size of a printing paper, wherein
said limiting step limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the
printing paper and the selected feed tray.

37. CANCELLED

38. (Unamended) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a
step of displaying of a staplable position and an unstaplable position in an identifiable screen.

39. CANCELLED

40. (Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein said printing
control method is prepared for in a host computer which communicates with a printer by an
interactive interface, wherein,

the acquiring step includes setting direction and size of the printing paper for each paper feed tray prepared for in said printer, from said printer by the interactive interface according to the designation of a user, and

the limiting step associates paper information acquired by said acquiring step with the paper information of the paper feed tray selected in the selecting step according to the instruction of the user from among the list of a plurality of paper feed trays displayed in the display unit and limits the staplable position on the basis of the associated paper information.

41. (Unamended) The method according to claim 40, further comprising a display control step for displaying the paper information of a plurality of paper feed trays acquired in said acquiring step,

wherein each paper information includes setting direction and size of the paper.

42. (Unamended) The method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of:
generating device list information; and
selecting the device corresponding to instruction of the user from among lists based on the generated device list information, wherein
said acquiring step acquires paper information for each paper feed tray of the selected device.

43. (Amended) A computer executable program for executing a printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, the program comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer in response to an instruction acquiring a device information;

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays;

setting a binding location; and

limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set.

44. (Amended) A recording medium on which is stored machine readable program code for executing a printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, said program code comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer response to an instruction acquiring a device information;

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays;

setting a binding location; and

limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set.